

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 025984

EXDIS

FOL RPT VALLETTA 0116 ACTION SECSTATE USUN NY INFO CAPE TOWN
DAR ES SALAAM GABORONE LAGOS LUSAKA MAPUTO PRETORIA 30 JAN 78 QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L VALLETTA 0116

EXDIS

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDEV, RH, UK

SUBJECT: RHODESIA: SUMMARY FIRST DAY'S MALTA MEETING
WITH PATRIOTIC FRONT

1.UK/US DISCUSSIONS WITH PF LEADERS NKOMO AND MUGABE
OPENED JANUARY 30 WITH MORNING AND AFTERNOON SESSIONS
EXTENDING OVER 2 1/2 HOURS. THE TALKS WERE DIRECT,
BUT NON-CONFRONTATIONAL; PRIVATE, SOCIAL MEETINGS WERE
CORDIAL. AS PRIMARY SPOKESMAN, FOREIGN SECRETARY
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OWEN UNDERScored UK-US FIRM INTENTION TO PURSUE
THE ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS. PF SIDE'S COMMENTS
SOUGHT TO ESTABLISH:

-- ITS SPECIAL STATUS AS FIGHTERS FOR ZIMBABWE INDEPENDENCE.
CONSEQUENTLY, PF PRESENCE IN MALTA SHOULD NOT BE UNDERSTOOD
AS COMPARABLE IN ANY WAY TO SALISBURY INTERNAL TALKS. FURTHER,

PF WAS ENTITLED TO PROMINENT ROLE IN ANY TRANSITION
ARRANGEMENTS.

-- THAT THE "CONDITION OF WAR" WHICH EXISTS REQUIRES THAT
THERE BE A FULL UNDERSTANDING OF THE INTERIM ARRANGEMENTS
BEFORE AN CEASEFIRE IS AGREED UPON.

-- ITS WILLINGNESS TO NEGOTIATE SERIOUSLY ON TRANSITION
ARRANGEMENTS.

-- ITS EXPECTATION THAT UK-US WILL DO WHAT IS NEEDED TO GET
SMITH TO LEAVE ONCE THERE IS AGREEMENT ON TRANSITION
ARRANGEMENTS.

2. ON THAT BASIS, NKOMO OFFERED TO TABLE PF'S OUTLINE
OF A TRANSITIONAL PLAN WHICH, MUGABE HINTED, WOULD
LOOK TO A PROMINENT PF GOVERNMENTAL ROLE IN THE TRANSITION
PERIOD. WITH SOME RELUCTANCE BECAUSE OF THE
RIGIDITY WHICH A WRITTEN PLAN COULD INTRODUCE INTO
THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS, OWEN AGREED. PF PROMISED
TO DELIVER THE PLAN EARLY JANUARY 31 FOR DISCUSSION
AT RESUMED MEETING AT 10:00 A.M. SUBSTANTIVE
COMMENT AND FULL ACCOUNT FOLLOW SEPTELS.
LAINGEN

UNQUOTE VANCE
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